

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/521,312

Attorney docket Q85242

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have added the legend --Prior Art-- to Figures 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been examined. Claim 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figs. 1-3 because they are not labeled with the designation "PRIOR ART." Applicants have labeled the drawings as the Examiner suggests and submits that the objection is overcome.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 5,805,136 to Silverbrook et al. ("Silverbrook")

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Silverbrook. Applicants submit that the claim is patentable over the reference.

For example, claim 1 relates to a spatial light modulator in which a plurality of light modulation elements are arranged in one plane to modulate a light beam incident thereon. Also, the plurality of light modulation elements are arranged such that there are at least two Fourier frequency components corresponding to distances of the light modulation elements in an arbitrary direction in the one plane. On the other hand, Silverbrook does not disclose or suggest the claimed features.

For example, Fig. 16 of the reference shows a pixel 63 of a ferroelectric liquid crystal display. The pixel 63 has seven sub-pixels 55-61 that can be independently illuminated to create various illumination levels for the pixel 63. (*See, e.g.*, Fig. 17). Thus, the pixel 63 disclosed in Silverbrook does not suggest the claimed light modulation elements that modulate a light beam

and that are arranged based on at least two Fourier frequency components, as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 5,107,351 to Leib et al. (“Leib”)

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Leib. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the reference.

A. Claim 2

For instance, claim 2 relates to a spatial light modulator in which light modulation elements modulate a light beam incident thereon. Also, the light modulation elements are arranged such that there are at least two Fourier frequency components corresponding to distances of the light modulation elements in an arbitrary direction in a light modulation region. Since Leib does not suggest arranging light modulation elements in the claimed manner, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable over the reference.

B. Claim 3

Since claim 3 depends upon claim 2, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Leib in view of JP 2-135425 to Takahara (“Takahara”)

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leib in view of Takahara.

A. Claim 4

Since claim 4 contains features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 2, and since Takahara does not cure the deficient teachings of Leib with respect to such features, Applicants submit that claim 4 is patentable for at least similar reasons.

B. Claim 5

Since claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claim is moot.

C. Claim 6

Since claim 6 depends upon claim 4, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

V. Conclusion

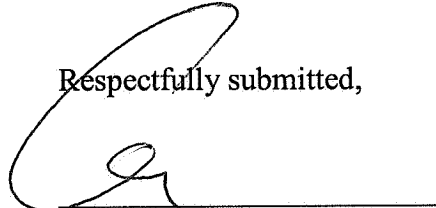
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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